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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We lift our hearts toward Your throne, O God, and bless Your Holy Name. You are great and worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. You have given us this great Nation as a heritage, and we are depending on Your providence to sustain us.

Prosper the labors of our lawmakers as they put their trust in You. In Your loving kindness, bring them a productive harvest from the seeds they have planted and watered on good soil. Keep them from accepting the belief that it is not possible to get things done, as You remind them that all things are possible to those who believe. Though they walk in the midst of trouble, revive and refresh them.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we learned yesterday that our allies in Jordan were victims of a terrorist attack. The vehicle-borne IED killed Jordanian soldiers and police officers. Although ISIL is not taking credit for

the attack, the tactics were certainly similar to those frequently employed by ISIL. Last week, the terrorist that ISIL called a soldier of the caliphate took 49 lives as he proudly proclaimed his allegiance to that group. Days later, the CIA Director delivered a sobering analysis of ISIL's strength and capabilities.

"[Our] efforts have not reduced the group's terrorism capability and global reach," he said. "[As] we have seen in Orlando, San Bernardino and elsewhere, ISIL is attempting to inspire attacks by sympathizers . . . [and it is] training and attempting to deploy operatives for further attacks."

These are the facts—facts that the Director of Central Intelligence did not deliver lightly.

They are certainly worrying.

They remind us that this vile, hate-filled terrorist group is going to keep bringing tragedies to our doorstep until it is defeated where it trains, operates, and prepares—places like Iraq and Syria.

So we have a choice.

We can focus on defeating ISIL or we can focus on partisan politics.

Some of our colleagues may think this is all some game. We have seen the ridiculous tweets and the bizarre one-liners about guns and terrorists. I believe this is a serious moment that calls for serious solutions.

So I would ask every Senator to consider this statement from one of our Democratic colleagues just last week: "Why have this job, one of the most powerful jobs in the world," he asked, "if we are not going to exercise it to try to protect Americans from harm?"

This is the point I am making. He may have meant these words in a different context, but the reality is this: We all know that the principal way to prevent more ISIL-inspired and ISIL-directed heartbreak is to actually defeat ISIL. It is not an easy task. It doesn't always make for snappy one-liners. Not only is it going to take

time, but it is going to take all of our efforts. But that is why our constituents sent us here.

Here is what we need from President Obama: Lead a serious campaign to defeat ISIL.

Here is what we need from each other: Work towards serious solutions to fight terror beyond our borders and serious counterterror tools to prevent attacks within our borders.

We will have opportunities to take positive steps forward as we resume consideration of the legislation before us.

This bill will give the FBI and law enforcement more resources to track down and defuse terrorist threats. Funding is only one piece of the larger puzzle, however. The FBI and law enforcement also need smart, targeted tools to help stop terrorist attacks before they happen in the first place.

We will have the opportunity to consider more good ideas this morning as part of the McCain amendment. One of these good ideas—ECTR reform—will allow law enforcement to connect the dots of terrorist communications in order to disrupt their plans. The inability to connect the dots has been one of the problems the FBI has had in identifying homegrown terrorists like the one in Orlando. The FBI Director calls this smart, targeted reform, "enormously helpful" and recently identified it as a top legislative priority. It will not allow for the collection of any content, nor will it infringe on civil liberties or civil rights. What it will do is give law enforcement a critical helping hand in the midst of ISIL's sophisticated Internet campaign to direct and inspire attacks right here in our communities. Given all we know about ISIL and its ability to radicalize people on the Internet, doesn't that just make good sense?

Here is another idea that makes sense: the McCain amendment's lone-wolf provision.

ISIL's spokesman recently issued a call for lone-wolf attacks against the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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